

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 8, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 104

Introduced by Senator Nguyen

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Travis Allen)

(Coauthors: Senators Bates, Beall, Cannella, Fuller, Hall, Huff, Liu, Morrell, Nielsen, Runner, and Vidak)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker, Brough, Chang, Chávez, Cristina Garcia, Hadley, Harper, Kim, Lackey, McCarty, Mullin, Ting, Wagner, and Wilk)

February 1, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 104—Relative to Black April Memorial Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 104, as amended, Nguyen. Black April Memorial Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2016 as Black April Memorial Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2016, marks the 41st year since the Fall
- 2 of ~~Saigon~~ *Saigon*, on April 30, 1975, to communism; and
- 3 WHEREAS, For many Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who
- 4 were directly involved in the war and Vietnamese Americans who
- 5 have settled in the United States, the Vietnam War was a tragedy
- 6 full of great suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and
- 7 Southeast Asian lives; and
- 8 WHEREAS, The combined United States and South Vietnamese
- 9 fatalities among servicemen and women during the Vietnam War

1 reached more than a half million, with approximately 800,000
2 additional troops being wounded in combat. Millions of
3 Vietnamese civilians suffered casualties and death as a result of
4 the extended conflict; and

5 WHEREAS, After the Fall of Saigon, millions of Vietnamese
6 and their families fled Vietnam to surrounding areas and the United
7 States, including, but not limited to, former military personnel,
8 government officials, and those who had worked for the United
9 States during the war; and

10 WHEREAS, In the late 1970s to mid-1980s, thousands of
11 Vietnamese risked their lives by fleeing Vietnam aboard small
12 wooden boats. These emigrants reached refugee camps in Thailand,
13 Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong, while
14 approximately one-half of the people fleeing Vietnam in search
15 of freedom and democracy perished at sea; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2010,
17 more than 580,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest
18 concentration of Vietnamese residents found outside of Vietnam
19 residing in the County of Orange; and

20 WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, democracy, and
21 protection against threats of aggression are important concerns of
22 Vietnamese Americans and Vietnamese communities worldwide
23 stemming from human rights abuses that continue to occur in
24 Vietnam in the following areas, among others, child labor, human
25 trafficking, religious and political persecution, suppression of the
26 press, unlawful deprivation of life, forced disappearances, and land
27 seizure; and

28 WHEREAS, The 2014 United States Department of State's
29 Report on Human Rights Practices in Vietnam estimates 125
30 political detainees are being held, and the International Labor
31 Rights Forum reports that mistreatment has continued at
32 reeducation centers, including forcing detainees to produce goods
33 for private companies; and

34 WHEREAS, We must teach our children and future generations
35 important lessons from the Vietnam War and the continuing
36 situation in Vietnam, including how the plight of the Vietnamese
37 refugees following the end of the war serves as a powerful example
38 of the values of freedom and democracy; and

39 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively
40 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual

1 freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under the laws of a just
2 and democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of
3 time every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers,
4 medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War
5 in pursuit of freedom and democracy; and

6 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout
7 California will commemorate April 30, 2016, as Black April, a
8 day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom,
9 including freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of
10 press, and Internet freedom; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
12 *thereof concurring*, That in recognition of the great tragedy and
13 suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War, the month of
14 April 2016 shall be proclaimed Black April Memorial Month, a
15 special time for Californians to remember the lives lost during the
16 Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for
17 the people of Vietnam; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.